Goulburn High School’s Swimming Carnival was again one of the highlights of the beginning of the school year. The weather was perfect, the competitors fair and skilled and everyone enjoyed a wonderful day outside.

Our fundraising effort is going from strength to strength. Many thanks to the Mulwaree Goulburn Council for their kind donation, which will help our students with travel and accommodation costs whilst competing on the world stage of robotics. We also like to extend our thanks to the Goulburn Friendship Club for their recent donation. What a fantastic community we live in (see page 3 for more sponsors).
Principal’s Report

Last week our official numbers for 2015 were submitted to the department with a slight reduction in anticipated numbers. Our total number of students for this year is 669. This is made up of the following:

Year 7 109  Year 8 119  Year 9 124  Year 10 132  Year 11/12 161  Support 24

As a result of the slight reduction, the school’s executive are currently examining any possible changes to our staffing structure.

Towards the end of this term or early next term, we are looking at setting up a parent portal which will enable parents to examine their child’s attendance and any behaviour issues. This will be done through our recently purchased software package called Sentral. Currently the school is implementing our new Period by Period attendance package and already the staff can see a range of benefits ensuring that students are tracked more efficiently with their attendance.

With regards to attendance, parents need to be aware of changes to students applying for holiday leave during the school term. In previous years the students could apply for exemption and in most cases this was approved. The new policy states that if students take leave during the term for “holiday” activities, then it will be recorded as unjustified leave.

In the next two weeks, the school will be sending out invoices for all students. These will include the voluntary contributions and elective fees. If you have any difficulties paying these fees, please don’t hesitate to contact the Principal.

GHS Agriculture teacher, Ms Hope, and her students recently harvested their successful veggie crop this year. Now they need more zucchini and pumpkin recipes to help them to cook and eat it all.
Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

PBL (previously known as PBS) focuses on teaching students appropriate behaviours and instilling relevant values for school and for life. At GHS our focus is on developing a culture where students aim high in everything they do. PBL reminds students to behave appropriately because they know what to do, and encourages and teaches students to aim high and to be respectful, responsible, considerate and positive at all times.

Our SPARS program (Student Positive Achievement Rewards System) acknowledges and rewards students through the giving of GHS “Dollars” which accumulate and allow students to progress through the levels of Merit, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Students are also recognised for other criteria including wearing correct uniform, regular attendance and participation in extra-curricular activities.

To celebrate International Women’s Day, Goulburn High School will hold a special assembly on March 9th. Guest speakers will include Cr. Carol James, nurse and former student, Lartaye Dennis, and female teachers from Sports and Science and Technology to help raise awareness and call for greater equality.

Thank you to all the community members, students and staff who have supported the fundraising activities for the GHS VEX Robotics Team

A special thanks needs to go out to:


The team have booked their tickets and will fly out on 12th April, returning on the 21st April.

Do you want to play football?
Goulburn Strikers Football Club is seeking players aged 13–15 years for the 2015 season.
For more information please contact:

Darrell Orton on 0438 488 568
On Friday 13th February, Goulburn High School participated in the annual Swimming Carnival at Goulburn Aquatic Centre. Students competing in the 100m events met at the pool at an early 8am, where they contested respective events. Strong swimming performances were seen by all students with a number of students progressing to the regional level.

Last Friday, a number of students trekked down to Queanbeyan Pool to compete in the Zone Swimming Carnival. All students who attended worked very hard in their events with many students achieving outstanding results. Goulburn High School showcased their talents in all events with the following students progressing to the Regional level.

Emily Mae Strickland
Natasha Dawson
Bree Smith
Amy Byrne
Brandyn Law
Warren Davey
12 years girls relay
14 years girls relay
14 years boys relay
15 years girls relay

Congratulations to all students on an excellent start to the year and good luck to all students competing and trialling at higher levels over the next few weeks.

Ricky Chamberlain (photos by Angus Kemmis and Will Hargan)
**Deputy Principal’s Report**

**VEX Robotics Championships**

Although there is more information about VEX Robotics fundraising in other parts of the newsletter, I wanted to add my own heartfelt thanks for the wonderful support we have had from the Goulburn community. We are so excited to be going to represent Australia in this educational robotics championship, wearing the green and gold while doing our best against the best in the world. We are hoping to launch this competition in Goulburn when we return, working with other schools in our area to build a local arm of this national competition.

**BYOD**

By now all students in years 7 - 10 would have taken home a copy of the BYOD user charter for signing. Please ensure that you read the form, sign it and return the first page to school with your child who will give it to their roll call teacher. If you have any uncertainties about the charter, please do not hesitate to ring me at school.

**Changed Lunch and Recess trial**

Over the past six weeks, we have continued our trial looking at 30 minutes each for recess and lunchtimes. This is a continuation from last year where the changes in recess and lunch times (from the previous model of 22 minute recess and 44 minute lunch) took place in the last 4 weeks of term 4. We will be evaluating the trial and would be happy for any feedback from parents about their point of view on these changes. Please do not hesitate to contact me at school with any feedback.

**School shoes**

A reminder that our school uniform policy states that all students must wear black enclosed polishable leather shoes to school. Please ensure that your child is not wearing canvas/mesh shoes to school as these shoes do not offer adequate protection in all subjects.

**Vero Joseph**

Some Important Dates:

- Regional Swimming Carnival 5th March
- Year 6 Parent Information Evening 11th March
- Informal Year 7 Parent Teacher Night 18th March
- Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations from week 9, approx. 23rd March
- Year 7 Questacon Excursion 1st April
- Last day of Term 1, 2nd April
- VEX Robotics trip to World Championships in Kentucky USA 12th – 21st April
- Staff Development Day Term 2, 20th April
- All students return for Term 2, 21st April
At a ridiculously early hour of the morning, on a Sunday, 26 students from the Year 10 International Studies classes got on the 5:54am train to Sydney. We arrived at 9am and went to the YHA across the road from Central Station. We dropped off our luggage and then went to Darling Harbour, where we bought Maccas and got to chill in the playground. After the park we went to Paddy’s Markets and we all went shopping for about an hour and a half. We then regrouped at the front entrance and travelled to the food court and grabbed some lunch.

After lunch we went to the Chinese Gardens and spent an hour relaxing before heading back to the hostel for chill out time. At 5:30 we left for the parade. After standing around for a while, the parade started at 8:15. There were many different groups contributing to the parade to make it a very enjoyable and fun experience. At around 10:30pm the parade wrapped up and we made our way to Darling Harbour again, where there were lots of fireworks and lit up decorations. We got back to the YHA at around 11pm and went to sleep.

The next morning we all made our way downstairs where we enjoyed a provided breakfast in the café. At 9:30am, we met our old friend George who gave us a tour of Chinatown. He explained the significance of the many different statues and aspects of the buildings in Dixon Street. Afterwards, we made our way to the Monkey Baa Theatre workshop, where we participated in different activities in small groups. After this, we went to a Yum Cha Restaurant in Chinatown for lunch.

A huge thank you to Mr Mackay and Mrs James for putting up with us over the two days, and also to Mr Stoevelaar for helping to organise this memorable excursion.

By Heather Davey and Stuart McDonald.
Women are underrepresented in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) workforce. Year 10 students, Jasmyn Ruffles and Natasha Dawson, are here to change that dynamic. They are completing their 2nd year of Information and Software Technology (IST) subject, learning computer programming and website development and they are doing extremely well.

Technology is one of the primary drivers of the modern economy and a sector where productivity is rapidly increasing. Jasmyn and Natasha encourage more female students to study ICT subject.

**Sports Report**

It has been a busy start to the year in the sporting arena at Goulburn High School. To their credit, Goulburn High students have accelerated in various sports, gaining selection at zone and regional levels. The following students worked hard over the holidays and have gained selection in their respective sports:

- Hayley Cooper – South Coast Tennis
- Ryan Murphy – South Coast Tennis
- Marlee Day – South Coast Basketball
- Ebony Hargraves Bachta – South Coast Basketball
- Georgia Noack – South Coast Basketball
- Girls opens basketball – Zone Champions

Goulburn High School would like to wish these students good luck competing at CHS carnivals in the near future.

Friday the 27th February was a long day for HSC English Advanced students this year. Ms Maltan insisted on attending the HSC Study Day at Sydney University to deepen their understanding of the new prescribed Area of Study: the concept of Discovery. And discover they did!

Sydney University is arguably the most impressive campus in Australia, where historic buildings make everyone feel like they have stepped right into Hogwarts. As well as learning new and exciting ways to respond to the Area of Study, students were given freebies (it was O Week at the university) and Ms Maltan reluctantly shared one of her many secrets: where to get the best pan-fried Chinese dumplings in Chinatown. After a mad dash back to Central Station, Jessica Turner’s hearty footwear, a black thong, finally kicked the bucket.

Emmot and Will also tried to calculate how many bees it would take to lift a passenger plane, but sadly, we might never know.